

A rare Predynastic carnelian 'Bull's head' pendant amulet.

Circa: 2nd half of the 4th millennium B.C.

1.9 x 1.7 cm (0 ³/₄ x 0 ⁵/₈ inches)

Egypt, Predynastic period, Naqada culture

2nd half of the 4th millennium B.C.

A Predynastic carnelian amulet depicting a stylized bull's head. In a broadly abstract style depicted with downwards turned horns and rounded eyes. The back is pierced horizontally for stringing.

This amulet must have represented a magical or religious belief current in Naqada times. Together, with shell beads it was once used as a central pendant in a necklace.

Exhibitions

Galerie Nefer, Ancient Jewellery from the Near East and Egypt, Exhibition Catalogue, Spring 1993

Literature

Galerie Nefer, Ancient Jewellery from the Near East and Egypt, Exhibition Catalogue, Spring 1993, p.49, 46B